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Agenda item 20 (d)

**Sustainable development: protection of global climate
for present and future generations of humankind****Report of the Second Committee***

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Losoko Efambe **Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/65/436, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 28th and 31st meetings, on 12 and 24 November 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.28 and 31).

**II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.33
and A/C.2/65/L.51**

2. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" (A/C.2/65/L.33), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008 and 64/73 of 7 December 2009 and resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

"Recalling also the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/65/436 and Add.1-9.



countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions.

"Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

"Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,

"Recalling the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 15 December 2007,

"Reaffirming the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa, face increased risks from the adverse effects of climate change, and stressing the need to address adaptation needs relating to such effects,

"Recognizing that low-lying and other small island countries, countries with low-lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas or areas liable to floods, drought and desertification, and developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change,

"Noting that, to date, there are one hundred and ninety-four parties to the Convention, including one hundred and ninety-three States and one regional economic integration organization,

"Noting also that, currently, the Kyoto Protocol has attracted one hundred and ninety ratifications, accessions, acceptances or approvals, including by thirty-nine parties included in annex I to the Convention,

"Noting further the amendment to annex B to the Kyoto Protocol,

"Noting the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

"Noting also the significance of the scientific findings of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, providing an integrated scientific, technical and socio-economic perspective on relevant issues and contributing positively to the discussions under the Convention and the understanding of the phenomenon of climate change, including its impacts and risks,

"Reaffirming that economic and social development and poverty eradication are global priorities,

"Recognizing that deep cuts in global emissions will be required to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention,

"Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and also reaffirming that such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner,

"Reaffirming the financial obligations of developed country parties and other developed parties included in annex II under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol,

"Acknowledging women as key actors in the efforts towards sustainable development, and recognizing that a gender perspective can contribute to efforts to address climate change,

"Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

"1. Recognizes the urgency to address the challenge of climate change, and calls upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through the urgent implementation of its provisions;

"2. Notes that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change welcome the entry into force of the Protocol on 16 February 2005 and strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

"3. Takes note of the outcome of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Denmark from 6 to 18 December 2009;

"4. Takes note with appreciation of the offer of the Government of Mexico to host the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010;

"5. Notes the ongoing parallel work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention and the Ad Hoc Working

Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, and that the respective parties to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol call for an early completion of this work in accordance with their respective mandates and ensuring in particular that there is no gap between the first and the second commitment periods under the Kyoto Protocol;

"6. *Encourages* Member States to approach Cancun with ambition, optimism and determination, with a view to achieving a substantive and ambitious outcome at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol;

"7. *Takes note with appreciation*, in this regard, of the offer of the Government of South Africa to host the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the seventh session of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in 2011;

"8. *Urges* parties to the Convention, and invites parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention, to continue to make use of the information contained in the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in their work;

"9. *Recognizes* that climate change poses serious risks and challenges to all countries, particularly developing countries, especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa, including those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and calls upon States to take urgent global action to address climate change in accordance with the principles identified in the Convention, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and in this regard urges all countries to fully implement their commitments under the Convention, to take effective and concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhance international cooperation in the framework of the Convention;

"10. *Reaffirms* that efforts to address climate change in a manner that enhances the sustainable development and sustained economic growth of the developing countries and the eradication of poverty should be carried out by promoting the integration of the three components of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars, in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner;

"11. *Recognizes* the urgent need to provide further support in the implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol;

"12. *Recognizes further* the urgency of providing financial and technical resources, as well as capacity-building and access to and transfer of technology, to assist those developing countries adversely affected by climate change;

"13. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Framework Convention, the

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages close cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

"14. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"15. *Invites* the secretariat of the Framework Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind'."

3. At its 31st meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" (A/C.2/65/L.51), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.33.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.51.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.51 had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at its 31st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.51 (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.51, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.33 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008 and 64/73 of 7 December 2009 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹ including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),⁵

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁶

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,⁷

Recalling the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 15 December 2007,⁸ and noting the outcomes of all previous sessions,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

² See resolution 55/2.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2303, No. 30822.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ See resolution 60/1.

⁷ See resolution 65/1.

⁸ FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1 and 2 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2007/9/Add.1 and 2.

Reaffirming the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁹ the Mauritius Declaration¹⁰ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,¹¹

Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa, face increased risks from the adverse effects of climate change, and stressing the need to address adaptation needs relating to such effects,

Recognizing that low-lying and other small island countries, countries with low-lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas or areas liable to floods, drought and desertification, and developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change,

Noting that, to date, there are one hundred and ninety-four parties to the Convention, including one hundred and ninety-three States and one regional economic integration organization,

Noting also that, currently, the Kyoto Protocol has attracted one hundred and ninety-three ratifications, accessions, acceptances or approvals, including by thirty-nine parties included in annex I to the Convention,

Noting further the amendment to annex B to the Kyoto Protocol,¹²

Noting the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the need to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Panel for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries,

Noting also the significance of the scientific findings of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, providing an integrated scientific, technical and socio-economic perspective on relevant issues and contributing positively to the discussions under the Convention and the understanding of the phenomenon of climate change, including its impacts and risks,

Reaffirming that poverty eradication and sustainable development are global priorities,

Recognizing that deep cuts in global emissions will be required to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention,

Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and also

⁹ *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

¹⁰ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution I, annex I.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, annex II.

¹² FCCC/KP/CMP/2006/10/Add.1, decision 10/CMP.2, annex.

reaffirming that such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner,

Reaffirming the financial obligations of developed country parties and other developed parties included in annex II under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol,

Acknowledging women as key actors in the efforts towards sustainable development, and recognizing that a gender perspective can contribute to efforts to address climate change,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,¹³

1. *Recognizes* the urgency of addressing, and the seriousness of, the challenge of climate change, and calls upon States to show strong political will in working cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹ through the urgent implementation of its provisions;

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ welcome the entry into force of the Protocol on 16 February 2005, and strongly urges States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Denmark from 7 to 19 December 2009;¹⁴

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Mexico to host the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Cancun from 29 November to 10 December 2010;

5. *Notes* the ongoing parallel work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol, in accordance with their respective mandates, and that the respective parties to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol call for the completion of this work;

6. *Encourages* Member States to approach the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun with optimism and determination, with a view to achieving a substantive, balanced and ambitious outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

7. *Takes note with appreciation*, in this regard, of the offer of the Government of South Africa to host the seventeenth session of the Conference of the

¹³ A/65/294, sect. I.

¹⁴ FCCC/CP/2009/11 and Add.1 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2009/21 and Add.1.

Parties to the Convention and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in 2011;

8. *Urges* parties to the Convention, and invites parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention, to continue to make use of the information contained in the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in their work;

9. *Recognizes* that climate change poses serious risks and challenges to all countries, particularly developing countries, especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa, including those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and calls upon States to take urgent global action to address climate change in accordance with the principles identified in the Convention, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and in this regard urges all countries to fully implement their commitments under the Convention, to take effective and concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhance international cooperation in the framework of the Convention;

10. *Reaffirms* that efforts to address climate change in a manner that enhances the sustainable development and sustained economic growth of the developing countries and the eradication of poverty should be carried out by promoting the integration of the three components of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars, in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner;

11. *Recognizes* the urgency of providing financial and technical resources, as well as capacity-building and access to and transfer of technology, to assist those developing countries adversely affected by climate change;

12. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Framework Convention, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹⁵ and the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁶ and encourages close cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

13. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

14. *Invites* the secretariat of the Framework Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind".

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.



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Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Losoko Efambe **Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/65/436, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 27th and 33rd meetings, on 4 November and 1 December 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.27 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.21 and A/C.2/65/L.65

2. At the 27th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/65/L.21), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006, 62/193 of 19 December 2007, 63/218 of 19 December 2008 and 64/202 of 21 December 2009 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in

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Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

"Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the final outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

"Recalling further the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification 2010-2020,

"Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of developing countries,

"Reasserting its commitment to combating and reversing desertification and land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, consistent with articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention, and to mitigating the effects of drought, eradicating extreme poverty, promoting sustainable development and food security and improving the livelihoods of vulnerable people affected by drought and/or desertification, taking into account the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018), supporting the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, including from regional cooperation, and the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources,

"Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), in which the Convention is recognized as one of the tools for poverty eradication, and reiterating its resolve to eradicate extreme poverty,

"Acknowledging that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

"Concerned by the increasing frequency and severity of dust/sandstorms affecting arid and semi-arid regions and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

"Concerned also by the negative impacts that desertification, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change have on each other, recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems at all levels in a mutually supportive manner, and recognizing also the interrelationship between climate change, loss of biodiversity and desertification and the need to intensify efforts to combat desertification and promote sustainable land management,

"Concerned further that extreme desertification and land degradation processes affect a quarter of Latin America and the Caribbean region, as well as Asia, a situation which has not been perceived in all its magnitude, increasing the vulnerability of poor communities and compromising food security,

"Noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the

Convention on Biological Diversity ('the Rio Conventions'), while respecting their individual mandates,

"Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the Convention secretariat in supporting an effective response to desertification and drought,

"Concerned by the situation of one billion drylands inhabitants, who are among the poorest on the planet and are lagging behind in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those relating to hunger and poverty,

"Recognizing the need for investment in sustainable land management in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and emphasizing the need for the full implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework,

"Noting that the ten-year strategic plan and framework highlights the importance given to the development and implementation of scientifically based and sound methods for monitoring and assessing desertification and the efforts under way to promote scientific research and to strengthen the scientific base of the activities on desertification and drought under the Convention,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

"2. Invites Member States to enhance support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, including by mainstreaming its core issues into development strategies, to integrate desertification and land degradation into their plans and strategies for sustainable development and to integrate national action programmes related to drought and desertification into national development strategies;

"3. Urges the United Nations system and Member States, in particular the donor community, to pay specific attention to the billion drylands inhabitants by investing more resources in drylands if Millennium Development Goal targets are to be met and an equal distribution of development to be achieved;

"4. Welcomes the outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development regarding desertification, land degradation and drought and emphasizes the need to implement the policy options pertaining to that session;

"5. Fully aware of the need to cooperate at the global and regional levels, with a view to preventing and managing dust/sandstorms including by sharing related information, forecasting and early warning systems, and affirming that combating sand and dust storms demands financial support and the transfer of technology from developed countries to developing countries;

"6. *Calls for* the active additional substantive engagement and support of all parties, including in terms of human and financial resources, in the process of strengthening the scientific base of the activities on desertification and drought under the Convention, particularly those required to measure the impact of the implementation of the Convention;

"7. *Promotes* the strengthening of the advisory role of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology through their recommendations in order to monitor effectively the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

"8. *Calls for* the enhancement of the technical capabilities of national coordinating bodies and national focal points of the Convention, through the provision of an institutional and coordinated scientific back-up;

"9. *Decides* to convene a one day high-level meeting on the theme, 'Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication', to be held on Monday, 19 September 2011, prior to the general debate of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly;

"10. *Convinced* that the high-level meeting will constitute a significant event that will raise the awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought at the highest level, reaffirm the fulfilment of all commitments to the Convention and its ten-year strategic plan and framework (2008-2018), ensuring a higher priority for desertification, land degradation and drought on the international agenda, in particular at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio plus 20):

(a) *Decides* that the meeting will be structured around an opening plenary meeting followed by one interactive panel in the morning, on the same theme as the high-level meeting, followed by an interactive panel in the afternoon and a closing plenary;

(b) *Decides* that the panels will be co-chaired by Heads of State or Government, with due regard to geographical balance, in consultation with regional groups;

(c) *Decides* that the meeting will be held at the highest possible political level, with the participation of Heads of State or Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives, as appropriate;

(d) *Decides* that the preparations for the meeting will be undertaken under the aegis of the President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

(e) *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a background paper for the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States, to be available no later than June 2011;

(f) *Decides* that the meeting will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly who will present to the closing plenary a summary of the discussions prepared by the co-chairs to be transmitted, under his authority, to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations

Convention to Combat Desertification, to be held in the Republic of Korea, in 2011;

"11. *Welcomes* the enhanced collaboration and cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and United Nations programmes, funds, agencies and entities working on land degradation issues;

"12. *Notes* the outcome of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, and invites donors to the Facility to ensure that it is adequately resourced during the next replenishment period in order to allow it to allocate sufficient and adequate resources to its six focal areas, in particular its land degradation focal area;

"13. *Welcomes* the amendment to the Global Environment Facility Instrument, whereby the Facility shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2 (b), and article 21 of the Convention;

"14. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the assessment of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as well as the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session requesting the Bureau of the ninth session to undertake and supervise an evaluation of existing and potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism and their legal and financial implications;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa';

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 1 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/65/L.65), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.21.

4. The Committee also had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.21, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/65/L.62).

5. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.65.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.65.

7. Also at the 33rd meeting, the Vice-Chair orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/65/SR.33).
8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.65 as orally corrected (see para. 10).
9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.65, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors, together with the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/65/L.62.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006, 62/193 of 19 December 2007, 63/218 of 19 December 2008 and 64/202 of 21 December 2009 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome² and the final outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,³

Recalling further the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020),

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building of developing countries,⁴

Supporting the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification through joint action of the international community in addressing the causes and poverty impacts of desertification and land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, consistent with articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention, taking into account the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018),⁵ supporting the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, including from regional cooperation, and the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources,

Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),⁶ in which the Convention is recognized as one of the tools for poverty eradication, and reiterating its resolve to eradicate extreme poverty,

Acknowledging that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

² See resolution 60/1.

³ See resolution 65/1.

⁴ UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

⁵ A/C.2/62/7, annex.

⁶ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Concerned that extreme desertification and land degradation processes affect also the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, the Northern Mediterranean, and Central and Eastern Europe, a situation which, having been fully described in the ten-year strategic plan and framework, has not been acknowledged in all its magnitude, increasing the vulnerability of poor communities and compromising food security,

Concerned also by the increasing frequency and severity of dust storms and sandstorms affecting arid and semi-arid regions and their negative impact on the environment and the economy,

Concerned further by the negative impacts that desertification, land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change have on each other, recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems at all levels in a mutually supportive manner, and recognizing also the interrelationship between climate change, loss of biodiversity and desertification and the need to intensify efforts to combat desertification and promote sustainable land management,

Concerned by the negative economic impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought and in this regard welcoming the organization in 2012 of the second scientific conference on economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas,

Noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity ("the Rio Conventions"), while respecting their individual mandates,

Underlining the cross-sectoral nature of desertification, land degradation and drought mitigation, and in this regard inviting all relevant United Nations organizations to cooperate with the Convention secretariat in supporting an effective response to those challenges,

Expressing concern that one billion inhabitants of drylands are among the poorest on the planet and are lagging behind in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those relating to hunger and poverty, as indicated in the joint report of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Development Programme entitled *The Forgotten Billion: MDG Achievement in the Drylands*,

Recognizing the need for investment in sustainable land management in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas and emphasizing the need for the full implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework,

Noting that the ten-year strategic plan and framework highlights the importance given to the development and implementation of scientifically based and sound methods for monitoring and assessing desertification and the efforts under way to promote scientific research and to strengthen the scientific base of the activities on desertification and drought under the Convention,

Welcoming the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at its ninth session to endorse the offer of the

Government of the Republic of Korea to host the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties in Changwon City, Gyeongnam Province, from 10 to 21 October 2011,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;⁷

2. *Invites* Member States to enhance support for the implementation of the Convention,¹ including by mainstreaming its core issues into development strategies, where appropriate and needed, to integrate desertification and land degradation into their plans and strategies for sustainable development and to integrate national action programmes related to drought and desertification into national development strategies;

3. *Invites* Member States, in particular the donor community and the United Nations system, to address the needs of more than one billion inhabitants of drylands by encouraging appropriate investments to contribute to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in those areas;

4. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development⁸ regarding desertification, land degradation and drought, and emphasizes the need to implement the policy options pertaining to thematic clusters of that session;

5. *Fully aware* of the need to cooperate at the global and regional levels, with a view to preventing and managing dust storms and sandstorms, including by sharing related information, forecasting and early warning systems, invites Member States and relevant organizations to cooperate in sharing information, forecasting and early warning systems related to dust storms and sandstorms;

6. *Invites* all parties and all involved institutions to engage and actively support the process of strengthening the scientific base of the activities on desertification and drought under the Convention, in particular those required to assess the economic impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, and to measure the impact of the implementation of the Convention and the subsequent enhancement of the technical capabilities of national coordinating bodies and national focal points of the Convention;

7. *Recommends* the strengthening of the advisory role of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology through their recommendations in order to monitor effectively the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

8. *Requests* all States parties to the Convention to promote awareness among local populations, in particular women, young people and civil society organizations, and to include them in the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018),⁵ and encourages affected States parties and donors to take into account the issue of

⁷ A/65/294.

⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 9 (E/2009/29)*.

participation of civil society in Convention processes when setting priorities in national development strategies, in conformity, inter alia, with the comprehensive communication strategy adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session;

9. *Decides* to convene a one-day high-level meeting on the theme "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" on Tuesday, 20 September 2011, prior to the general debate of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly;

10. *Decides* to hold the general debate of its sixty-sixth session from Wednesday, 21 September 2011, on the understanding that these arrangements shall in no way create a precedent for the general debate at future sessions;

11. *Convinced* that the high-level meeting should contribute to raising awareness of desertification, land degradation and drought at the highest level, reaffirm the fulfilment of all commitments to the Convention and its ten-year strategic plan and framework (2008-2018), ensuring a higher priority for desertification, land degradation and drought on the international agenda, and also contribute to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio plus 20):

(a) *Decides* that the meeting will be organized within existing resources and structured around an opening plenary meeting, followed by one interactive panel in the morning, on the same theme as the high-level meeting, followed by a second interactive panel in the afternoon, followed by a closing plenary;

(b) *Decides* also that the panels will be co-chaired by Heads of State or Government, one from the North and one from the South for each panel, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, with due regard to geographical balance, in consultation with regional groups;

(c) *Encourages* holding the meeting at the highest possible political level, with the participation of Heads of State or Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives, as appropriate;

(d) *Decides* that the preparations for the meeting will be undertaken under the authority of the President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and that the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification will serve as the focal point of the high-level meeting;

(e) *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a background paper for the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States, to be available no later than June 2011;

(f) *Decides* that the meeting will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly, who will present at the closing plenary meeting a summary of the discussions based on the report of the co-chairs, for transmission, under his authority, to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at its tenth session, to be held from 10 to 21 October 2011 in Changwon City, Gyeongnam Province, Republic of Korea, and to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio plus 20);

(g) *Invites* heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, Executive Secretaries of the two

other Rio Conventions and heads of intergovernmental organizations and entities having observer status in the General Assembly to participate, as appropriate, in the meeting, in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the General Assembly;

(h) Decides that the President of the General Assembly will consult with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and with Member States, as appropriate, on the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector that may participate in the meeting;

(i) Decides that the speaking order at the opening meeting will be as follows: the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the President of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the incoming President of the tenth session of the Conference, the Group of 77 and China, the European Union, the Group of African States and other Member States, in accordance with United Nations protocol;

12. *Welcomes* the enhanced collaboration and cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and United Nations programmes, funds, agencies and entities working on land degradation issues;

13. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities in the work of the secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

14. *Also notes* the outcome of the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, and invites donors to the Facility to ensure that it is adequately resourced during the next replenishment period, to enable it to allocate sufficient and adequate resources to its six focal areas, in particular its land degradation focal area;

15. *Welcomes* the amendment to the Global Environment Facility instrument whereby the Facility shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2 (b), and article 21 of the Convention;

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the assessment of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification⁹ and of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session¹⁰ requesting the Bureau of the ninth session, together with the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and the Executive Secretary, and taking into account the views of other interested relevant entities such as the host countries and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to undertake and supervise an evaluation of existing and potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global

⁹ See A/64/379.

¹⁰ ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1, decision 6/COP.9.

Mechanism and their legal and financial implications, including the possibility of identifying a new institution or organization to house the Global Mechanism, taking into account the scenarios presented in the Joint Inspection Unit assessment of the Global Mechanism and the need to avoid duplication and overlap in the work of the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism, and also requesting the Bureau of the ninth session to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session a report on that evaluation for consideration and decision on the issue of reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.



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Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Losoko Efambe **Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/65/436, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 28th and 33rd meetings, on 12 November and 1 December 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.28 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.39 and A/C.2/65/L.67

2. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/65/L.39), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000 and 64/203 of 21 December 2009 and all other previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"Recalling also that in resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 the Assembly proclaimed 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/65/436 and Add.1-9.

"Reiterating that the Convention is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies,

"Reaffirming that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

"Noting that one hundred and ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that one hundred and fifty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is important for sustainable development, poverty eradication and improving well-being, and is a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more balanced, efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention,

"Recognizing the continuing need for greater progress in the implementation of obligations and commitments under the Convention by States parties in order to achieve its objectives, and, in this regard, emphasizing the need to comprehensively address the obstacles that impede the full implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and global levels,

"Conscious of the intrinsic value of biological diversity and of the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components,

"Recalling the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on biodiversity, held on 22 September 2010 as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, which highlighted the importance of the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention,

"Recalling also the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its document outcome,

"Expressing deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its fifth meeting serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and welcoming the decision of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to endorse the offer of the Government of India to host the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the

Parties from 8 to 19 October 2012 and its sixth meeting serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety from 1 to 5 October 2012,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"2. *Recognizes* the important outcome of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its fifth meeting serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, which represents a significant contribution towards the comprehensive implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity as an essential condition for the protection of life on Earth, human well-being and sustainable development;

"3. *Also recognizes* the adoption by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, as well as its potential role in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication, environmental sustainability and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

"4. *Reaffirms* the importance of addressing in a balanced and comprehensive manner all the different values of biodiversity recognized in the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account their importance for sustainable development;

"5. *Commends* the Global Environment Facility for its support for the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization;

"6. *Welcomes* the adoption by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of the updated and revised Strategic Plan for the Period 2011-2020, which is aimed at promoting the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity through a strategic approach comprising a shared vision, a mission, strategic goals and targets to inspire broad-based action by all parties to the Convention and all stakeholders;

"7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in Support of the Achievement of the Three Objectives of the Convention, and looks forward to the adoption by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties of financial targets and mechanisms in order to ensure the effectiveness of that strategy;

"8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the adoption by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of mechanisms to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention;

"9. *Welcomes* the significant progress made in developing a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development based on the framework for

South-South cooperation, and encourages parties to the Convention and Governments to further support its development and implementation;

"10. *Takes notes* of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, and encourages parties to the Convention, other Governments, relevant organizations, processes and initiatives and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to take its findings into consideration, where appropriate, when carrying out work on biodiversity and climate change, including their relation to desertification and land degradation;

"11. *Decides*, following the invitation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to declare 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity for the Period 2011-2020, and to designate the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity as the focal point for the coordination of the activities of the Decade, in consultation with Member States;

"12. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which provides rules and procedures on liability and redress for damage to biodiversity resulting from living modified organisms;

"13. *Notes* the revised administrative arrangements between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Environment Programme signed in Nagoya, Japan on 26 October 2010, and invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity services and facilities similar to those provided to the two other Rio Conventions by the United Nations, in particular on issues related to the delegation of programme support costs;

"14. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

"15. *Invites* parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Convention on Biological Diversity'."

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 1 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/65/L.67), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.39.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.67.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.67 had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chair made the following corrections to the draft resolution:

(a) In the tenth preambular paragraph, the word "States" was deleted before the word "parties";

(b) In operative paragraph 3, the words "to the Convention on Biological Diversity" were added after the words "Their Utilization".

7. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of France and Colombia with regard to corrections to the French and Spanish texts, respectively, of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/65/SR.33).

8. Also at the 33rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.67, as orally corrected (see para. 10).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.67, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.39 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 64/203 of 21 December 2009 and all other previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹

Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992,²

Recalling further that in its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 it proclaimed 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity,

Reiterating that the Convention is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Recognizing the potential contribution of other multilateral environmental agreements, including the biodiversity-related conventions, and of international organizations in support of the three objectives of the Convention,

Reaffirming that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Noting that one hundred and ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that one hundred and fifty-nine States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,³

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and improving human well-being, and is a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. 1, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annexes I and II.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a balanced, efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention,

Recognizing the continuing need for greater progress in the implementation of obligations and commitments under the Convention by parties in order to achieve its objectives, and, in this regard, emphasizing the need to comprehensively address the challenges to the full implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and global levels,

Taking note of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on biodiversity, held on 22 September 2010, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity,

Recalling the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,⁴

Expressing deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its fifth meeting serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and welcoming the decision of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to endorse the offer of the Government of India to hold the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties from 8 to 19 October 2012 and its sixth meeting serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety from 1 to 5 October 2012,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;⁵

2. *Recognizes* the important outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, and its fifth meeting serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Nagoya from 11 to 15 October 2010, which represent a significant contribution towards the comprehensive implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Takes note* of the adoption by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and acknowledges the potential role of access and benefit-sharing in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, thereby contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of the updated and revised Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011-2020 ("Aichi Targets");

⁴ Resolution 65/1.

⁵ A/65/294, sect. III.

5. *Takes note* of the adoption by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a decision on the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in Support of the Achievement of the Three Objectives of the Convention, and looks forward to the adoption, as mandated, of targets at its eleventh meeting in order to ensure the effectiveness of this strategy, provided that robust baselines have been identified and endorsed and that an effective reporting framework has been adopted, with a view to fully meeting the commitment to substantially increase resources, human, financial and technical, from all sources;

6. *Also takes note* of the adoption of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which provides international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movement of living modified organisms;

7. *Further takes note* of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, and encourages parties, Governments, relevant organizations and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to take its findings into consideration, where appropriate, when carrying out work on biodiversity and climate change;

8. *Takes note* of the adoption by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of the decision on mechanisms to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention;

9. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue supporting the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, especially its work on assisting the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;

10. *Welcomes* the significant progress made in developing a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development based on the framework for South-South cooperation, and encourages parties and Governments to further contribute to its development;

11. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa⁶ and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁷ (the "Rio Conventions") and the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving the coherence in implementation of the three Rio Conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of these instruments;

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

12. *Reaffirms* the intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components, taking into account their importance for sustainable development;

13. *Notes* the consideration of aspects related to the economic valuation of ecosystems and biodiversity in the context of the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* reports, as referred to in relevant decisions adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

14. *Also notes* the decision adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the administration of the convention and budget for the programme of work for the biennium 2011-2012, which included the revised administrative arrangements between the secretariat of the Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme, and through which the Conference of the Parties looked forward to the rapid completion of the service-level agreement provided for in those arrangements, requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report to the Conference of the Parties through its bureau on the implementation of those arrangements and invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report on those arrangements to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-sixth session;

15. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

16. *Invites* parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so;

17. *Also invites* parties to the Convention to sign, ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol at the earliest opportunity;

18. *Invites* parties to the Cartagena Protocol to sign, ratify or accede to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at the earliest opportunity;

19. *Decides*, following the invitation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to declare 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011-2020, and requests the Secretary-General, in this regard, in consultation with Member States, to lead the coordination of the activities of the Decade on behalf of the United Nations system, with the support of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, and invites Member States in a position to do so to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the funding of the activities of the Decade;

20. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".



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Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Losoko Efambe **Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/65/436, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 29th and 33rd meetings, on 18 November and 1 December 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.29 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.43 and A/C.2/65/L.71

2. At the 29th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh session" (A/C.2/65/L.43), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 64/204 of 21 December 2009 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/65/436 and Add.1-9.



"Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"Recalling further the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

"Taking into account Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"Reaffirming that States have sovereign rights over their own biological resources,

"Reaffirming also the commitment of Member States to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority which sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as set out in the Nairobi Declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme of 1997,

"Reiterating that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building for developing countries, and recognizing the need to accelerate its implementation including through the provision of additional financial resources for that purpose,

"Noting with appreciation the progress achieved during the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury, held in Stockholm in 2010, and encouraging further efforts towards a successful conclusion of the negotiations,

"Recognizing the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority attached to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing to address issues relating to chemicals and wastes,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session and the decisions contained therein;

"2. Welcomes the Nusa Dua Declaration of 26 February 2010 as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, and calls for the active and effective participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparatory process for the Conference;

"3. Recognizes the ratification of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, contributes to more

coherent and effective international environmental governance and, in this context, invites Member States to ratify relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

"4. *Calls for* an increased and strengthened financial resources base for the United Nations Environment Programme to enable it to efficiently and effectively perform its mandate, in particular with respect to the implementation of all three environmental conventions adopted in Rio de Janeiro;

"5. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements to enhance cooperation and coordination on issues relating to the three chemical conventions and to support Governments in their efforts to implement, comply with and enforce these multilateral environmental agreements, and in this regard welcomes the outcome of the Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on 22 and 23 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia, welcomes the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, and supports further efforts through the United Nations Environment Programme to continue these discussions;

"6. *Notes* the revised administrative arrangements between the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Environment Programme, signed in Nagoya, Japan, on 26 October 2010, and invites the Executive Director of the Programme to extend to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity services and facilities similar to those provided to the two other environmental conventions adopted in Rio de Janeiro by the United Nations, in particular on issues related to programme support costs;

"7. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, particularly through its Quick Start Programme, and welcomes the progress achieved during the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury;

"8. *Recognizes* the important role played by the regional centres, in particular with regard to the implementation of international commitments and in the area of technology transfer, and in this regard emphasizes the need for a sustainable financing mechanism for those centres so as to promote effective implementation of the commitments set out in the chemical conventions in developing countries at the regional and subregional levels;

"9. *Recalls* United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SSXI/1 of 26 February 2010, by which the Council noted the set of options for improving international environmental governance identified by the consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives, invited the President of the Governing Council to transmit the set of options to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as an input to the continued process of improving international environmental governance, and decided that the group would present its final report to the Council in time for the contribution of the Council to the second meeting of the preparatory committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

"10. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme and the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to promote and strengthen synergies and cooperative efforts aimed at speeding up the fulfilment of their respective objectives, goals and programmes of work, in particular with regard to poverty eradication;

"11. *Underlines* the need to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and invites relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities, and calls upon Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan;

"12. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan, and notes the invitation to all other relevant organizations to mainstream the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities;

"13. *Recognizes* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation and that it is a valuable and essential component of international cooperation in implementing capacity-building and technical support programmes to achieve national and international environmental goals;

"14. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to provide ideas and proposals reflecting its experience and lessons learned as a contribution to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

"15. *Reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and, in this regard, notes that the fifth Global Environment Outlook and its related summary for policymakers is currently under preparation;

"16. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of sustainable development and to enhance cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and regional and subregional organizations, and welcomes the continued active participation of the Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group;

"17. *Expresses concern* about the gradual loss of capacities, flexibility and human and financial resources of the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and strongly reiterates the need to reinforce the role of these offices in assisting countries in mainstreaming their

environmental priorities and maintaining the strategic presence of the Programme at the national and regional levels as part of the continued efforts of the Programme in shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work;

"18. *Notes* the cooperation of the Environment Management Group, including by working with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies, in enhancing, inter alia, cooperation in programming environmental activities in the United Nations system in the areas of biodiversity and land degradation, including by supporting the implementation of the strategic plans of the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the post-2010 biodiversity targets;

"19. *Takes into account* the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth session, in which the Conference of the Parties recommended the establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and, in this regard, requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements of the platform, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all Member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to consider modalities and arrangements to fully operationalize the platform at the earliest opportunity;

"20. *Reiterates* the need for improved conservation of coastal and marine resources and integrated coastal management, and urges the international community to continue and enhance its support for small island developing States to strengthen their implementation of integrated coastal zone management strategies and their scientific research capacity;

"21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present progress reports to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan, indicating clearly the ongoing activities and results, including the allocated budgets, that fall within the framework of the Plan for developing countries;

"22. *Welcomes* the efforts made so far by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to the devastating impact of the earthquake of 12 January 2010 on the people, economy and environment of Haiti, and, in that regard, urges the Programme, in coordination with the United Nations country team, to continue to perform its key role in ensuring that environmental considerations are mainstreamed into the overall humanitarian relief and recovery programme;

"23. *Also welcomes* the increased contributions to the Environment Fund, and reiterates its invitation to Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Fund;

"24. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

"25. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

"26. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', a sub-item entitled 'Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session'."

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 1 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session" (A/C.2/65/L.71), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.43.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.71 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the 33rd meeting, the Vice-Chair orally corrected the following paragraphs of the draft resolution:

(a) In operative paragraph 8, after the words "as an input to the continuing process of improving international environmental governance", the words "and as a contribution to the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development" were deleted and, at the end of the paragraph, the words "in anticipation of the contribution of the Governing Council" were added;

(b) In operative paragraph 9, the words "and takes note of the ongoing work" were replaced by the words "to support the ongoing work";

(c) In operative paragraph 17, the words "the Programme and External Relations Commission" were replaced with the words "the Executive Board".

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of France and Mexico with regard to corrections to the French and Spanish texts, respectively, of the draft resolution.

7. Also at its 33rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.71, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.43 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 55/200 of 20 December 2000, 57/251 of 20 December 2002 and 64/204 of 21 December 2009 and other previous resolutions relating to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,²

Taking into account Agenda 21³ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),⁴

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁵ and its principles,

Reaffirming also its commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as set out in the Nairobi Declaration on the role and mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme⁶ of 1997 and in the Nusa Dua Declaration⁷ of 26 February 2010,

Noting the role played by the United Nations Environment Programme in the organization of the three ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meetings on a science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,

¹ See resolution 60/1.

² See resolution 65/1.

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex II.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁵ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex I.

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/52/25)*, annex, decision 19/1, annex.

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/65/25)*, annex I, decision SS.XI/9.

Reiterating that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building⁸ for developing countries,

Recognizing the need for heightened efforts to increase the political priority attached to the sound management of chemicals and wastes and the increased need for sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible financing for the chemicals and wastes agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session⁹ and the decisions contained therein;¹⁰

2. *Welcomes* the Nusa Dua Declaration⁷ of 26 February 2010 as a contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, and calls for the active and effective participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparatory process for the Conference;

3. *Recognizes* that the ratification and implementation of relevant multilateral environment agreements contribute to more effective international environmental governance and better protection and management of the global environment, and, in this context, invites Member States to ratify and implement relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

4. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Simultaneous Extraordinary Meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, held on 22 and 23 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia, also welcomes the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes and supports further efforts through the United Nations Environment Programme to continue these discussions, and in this regard, encourages cooperation and coordination among the three chemical and waste conventions and to support Governments in their efforts to implement, comply with and enforce these multilateral environmental agreements;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,¹¹ particularly through its Quick Start Programme;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the progress achieved during the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury,¹² held in Stockholm from 7 to 11 June 2010, and encourages further efforts towards a successful conclusion to the negotiations, and invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to ensure full support to the negotiation process with the goal of completing the instrument prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum with the aim of agreeing on a legally binding

⁸ See UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/65/25).*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, annex I.

¹¹ See the report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I-III.

¹² See UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.1/21.

instrument on mercury, to include provisions, among others, to reduce atmospheric emissions of mercury and to specify arrangements for capacity-building and technical and financial assistance, recognizing that the ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement some legal obligations effectively under a legally binding instrument is dependent on the availability of capacity-building and technical and adequate financial assistance;

7. *Recognizes* the important role played by the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, particularly in the implementation of the international commitments and in the area of technology transfer, and, in this regard, encourages Member States and other stakeholders to promote the full and coordinated use of the regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of assistance for the implementation of the three conventions;

8. *Recalls* United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.XI/1 of 26 February 2010 on international environmental governance,¹⁰ takes note of the set of options for improving international environmental governance identified by the consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives¹³ and the invitation to the President of the Governing Council to transmit the set of options to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as an input to the continuing process of improving international environmental governance, and also takes note of the ongoing work of the consultative group of ministers that will present its final report to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session in anticipation of the contribution of the Governing Council;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme to support the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats of the three conventions adopted in Rio de Janeiro and the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of the three conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of all these instruments;

10. *Underlines* the need to further advance and accelerate the full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building⁸ with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, invites relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities, and calls upon Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan;

11. *Recognizes* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and in this regard requests the United Nations Environment Programme to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-

¹³ UNEP/GCSS.XI/4, annex.

South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan;

12. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to contribute, notably by providing ideas and proposals reflecting its competencies, experiences and lessons learned, to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

13. *Reiterates* the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and, in this regard, notes that the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series and its related summary for policymakers is currently under development, and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals will be discussed, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and to enhance cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and regional and subregional organizations, and welcomes the continued active participation of the Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group, as well as in the United Nations exercises at the country level, including United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes and "Delivering as One" programmes for those countries implementing this initiative;

15. *Reiterates* the instrumental role of regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme in assisting countries in mainstreaming their environmental priorities and maintaining the strategic presence of the Programme at the national and regional levels as part of the continued efforts of the Programme in shifting emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work, and calls for increased support to strengthen the human, financial and programmatic capacities of all regional offices;

16. *Notes* the cooperation of the Environment Management Group, including by working with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its subsidiary bodies, in enhancing, inter alia, cooperation in programming environmental activities in the United Nations system in the areas of biodiversity and land degradation, including by supporting the implementation of the strategic plans of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,¹⁴ and the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁵ including the post-2010 biodiversity targets;

17. *Also notes* United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.XI/4,¹⁶ the Busan outcome,¹⁶ the decision adopted by the Conference of

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁶ A/65/383, annex.

the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, in October 2010,¹⁷ and the decision adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization contained in document 185 EX/43, and requests the United Nations Environment Programme, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, in order to fully operationalize the platform, to convene a plenary meeting providing for the full and effective participation of all Member States, in particular representatives from developing countries, to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for the platform at the earliest opportunity;

18. *Calls upon* international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to support the full and effective participation of representatives from developing countries in the plenary meeting;

19. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme aimed at strengthening the protection and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems and further mainstreaming the United Nations Environment Programme marine and coastal strategy in line with the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹⁸ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;¹⁹

20. *Welcomes* the efforts to date by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to the devastating impact of the earthquake of 12 January 2010 on the people, economy and environment of Haiti, and, in this regard, urges the United Nations Environment Programme, in coordination with the United Nations country team, to continue to perform its key role in ensuring that environmental considerations are mainstreamed into the overall humanitarian relief and recovery programme;

21. *Also welcomes* the increased contributions to the Environment Fund, and reiterates its invitation to Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Fund;

22. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

23. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary

¹⁷ See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/L.25.

¹⁸ See resolution 55/2.

¹⁹ *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session".



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Sustainable development: United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Losoko Efambe **Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/65/436, para. 2). Action on sub-item (h) was taken at the 27th and 29th meetings, on 4 and 18 November 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.27 and 29).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.13 and A/C.2/65/L.41

2. At the 27th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/65/L.13), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 59/237 of 22 December 2004 and all other previous resolutions on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

"Acknowledging the importance of education for achieving sustainable development, including in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") and the Education for All initiative,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/65/436 and Add.1-9.



"Taking into account that education has become more specialized, and recognizing the importance of promoting a holistic approach towards education for sustainable development and the need to reinforce the interdisciplinary linkages of the three pillars of sustainable development, including different branches of knowledge,

"Recognizing the role of education for sustainable development in promoting the eradication of poverty and a more sustainable model of consumption and production, particularly in the context of the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the mid-decade review of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, including the areas identified for further action in the remaining half of the Decade;

"2. *Also takes note* of the Bonn Declaration adopted at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development on 2 April 2009, including the areas identified for further action in the remaining half of the Decade;

"3. *Recognizes* that while progress has been made in raising awareness of the significance of education for sustainable development, such progress remains unevenly distributed;

"4. *Calls upon* the international community to reinforce its collective commitment to raise awareness of the significance of education for sustainable development, including through mobilizing resources, supporting national efforts and establishing processes that will continue beyond the end of the Decade;

"5. *Encourages* Governments to continue implementing the Decade at the international, national and local levels, including through working with academia, institutions and foundations, for example through introducing the concept of sustainable development into training curricula, while working towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, twenty years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and as a way to guide the efforts of human beings to rebalance their relationship with the Earth;

"6. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the designated lead agency, to continue its coordination role in promoting the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations organizations and programmes;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare a review of the implementation of the Decade for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the sub-item entitled 'United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development'."

3. At its 29th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/65/L.41), submitted by the Vice-Chair, Csilla Würtz (Hungary), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.13.
4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.41 had no programme budget implications.
5. Also at the same meeting, the Vice-Chair (Hungary) orally corrected the draft resolution (A/C.2/65/SR.29).
6. Also at its 29th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.41, as orally corrected (see para. 8).
7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.41, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.13 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 59/237 of 22 December 2004 and all relevant previous resolutions on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

Acknowledging the importance of education for achieving sustainable development, including in the context of the Millennium Development Goals, Agenda 21,¹ the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,² the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Education for All initiative,

Recognizing the importance of promoting a holistic approach towards education for sustainable development and the need to reinforce the interdisciplinary linkages of the three pillars of sustainable development, including different branches of knowledge,

Recognizing also the role of education for sustainable development in promoting the eradication of poverty and more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in the context of the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the mid-decade review of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,³ including the areas identified for further action in the remaining half of the Decade;

2. *Also takes note* of the Bonn Declaration of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, held from 31 March to 2 April 2009,⁴ including the areas identified for further action in the remaining half of the Decade;

3. *Recognizes* that while progress has been made in raising awareness of the significance of education for sustainable development, such progress remains unevenly distributed;

4. *Encourages* the international community to reinforce its collective commitment to raise awareness of the significance of education for sustainable

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex II.

² *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

³ See A/65/279.

⁴ Available from www.esd-world-conference-2009.org.

development, including through mobilizing resources, supporting national efforts, and establishing processes that will continue beyond the end of the Decade;

5. *Encourages* Governments to continue implementing the Decade at the international, national and local levels, including through working with all relevant stakeholders, particularly education systems at all levels, introducing, as appropriate, the concept of sustainable development into curricula, and cooperating in order to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem;

6. *Invites* Governments to continue to promote public awareness of and wider participation in the Decade, inter alia, through cooperation with and initiatives engaging civil society and other relevant stakeholders;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the designated lead agency, to continue its coordination role in promoting the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with other relevant United Nations organizations, funds and programmes;

8. *Notes* that the End-of-Decade World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development will be hosted jointly by the Government of Japan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2014;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare in cooperation with other relevant United Nations organizations, funds and programmes a review of the implementation of the Decade for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the sub-item entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development".



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Sustainable development: Harmony with Nature

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul Losoko Efambe **Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/65/436, para. 2). Action on sub-item (i) was taken at the 28th and 33rd meetings, on 12 November and 1 December 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.28 and 33).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.30 and Rev.1

2. At the 28th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), also on behalf of the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), subsequently joined by El Salvador, Gabon and Seychelles, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Harmony with Nature" (A/C.2/65/L.30), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),

"Reaffirming also its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009 on harmony with Nature and 63/278 of 22 April 2009 on the designation of 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/65/436 and Add.1-9.



"Recalling the 1982 World Charter for Nature,

"Recalling also its resolution 27/2994 of 15 December 1972 designating 5 June as World Environment Day, its resolution 47/193 of 22 December 1992, declaring 22 March the World Day for Water, its resolution 49/114 of 19 December 1994, declaring 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, its resolution 61/193 of 20 December 2006, declaring 2011 the International Year of Forests, its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006, declaring 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity, and recalling further its resolution 64/253 of 23 February 2010, entitled 'International Day of Nowruz',

"Noting the conclusions of the first Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, held in Tiquipaya, Cochabamba, Bolivia, from 20 to 22 April 2010,

"Stressing the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Brazil in 2012,

"Expressing its concern over the documented environmental degradation and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity,

"Recognizing that gross domestic product is an insufficient indicator for measuring degradation due to the overexploitation of nature,

"Recognizing that many ancient civilizations and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

"Recognizing also that human beings are an inseparable part of nature and that we cannot damage it without severely damaging ourselves,

"Recognizing further the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regards to highlighting the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts to devise a more sustainable model for production and consumption,

"Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the first report of the Secretary-General on harmony with Nature;

"2. Invites the President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly to convene, on International Mother Earth Day, an interactive dialogue between Member States and recognized experts from different regions and areas of knowledge, including health, humanistic, anthropological and social sciences, to discuss the issue of the rights of nature;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to convene, in consultation with Member States, a group of independent technical experts to further research and devise indicators that better contribute to the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and promote better access to economic performance and social progress in harmony with nature, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

"4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish an information portal to gather information, from a sustainable development perspective, regarding activities being undertaken to advance the integration of scientific interdisciplinary work and existing national legislation, with a view to making substantive contributions to the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, and beyond;

"5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its sixty-sixth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 33rd meeting, on 1 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Harmony with Nature" (A/C.2/65/L.30/Rev.1), submitted by the representative of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), also on behalf of Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Georgia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected the revised draft resolution.

5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) announced that Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Peru had joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution. Subsequently, Algeria, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Saint Lucia, Serbia, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka also joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

6. Also at the 33rd meeting, the Secretary read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the revised draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.30/Rev.1, as orally corrected (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ Agenda 21² and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),⁵

Recalling its resolutions 64/196 of 21 December 2009 on Harmony with Nature and 63/278 of 22 April 2009 on the designation of 22 April as International Mother Earth Day,

Recalling the 1982 World Charter for Nature,⁶

Recalling its resolutions 47/193 of 22 February 1993, in which it declared 22 March the World Day for Water, 49/114 of 19 December 1994, in which it proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, 55/201 of 20 December 2000, in which it proclaimed 22 May the International Day for Biological Diversity, 61/193 of 20 December 2006, concerning the International Year of Forests, and 64/253 of 23 February 2010, entitled "International Day of Nowruz",

Taking note of the first Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth,⁷ held in Tiquipaya, Cochabamba, hosted by the Plurinational State of Bolivia from 20 to 22 April 2010,

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that will be held in Brazil in 2012,

Expressing its concern about the documented environmental degradation and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity,

Recognizing that gross domestic product is not an adequate indicator to measure environmental degradation resulting from human activity,

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ Resolution 37/7, annex.

⁷ See A/64/777, annexes I and II.

Recognizing also that many ancient civilizations and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship,

Recognizing the work undertaken by civil society, academia and scientists in regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth, as well as their efforts to devise a more sustainable model for production and consumption,

Considering that sustainable development is a holistic concept that requires the strengthening of interdisciplinary linkages in the different branches of knowledge,

1. *Takes note* of the first report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature;⁸

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, at its sixty-fifth session, an interactive dialogue, to be held at two plenary meetings during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 26 April 2011, with the participation of Member States, United Nations organizations, independent experts and other stakeholders, to actively and effectively contribute to and support efforts in the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, on the following topics:

(a) Ways to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature;

(b) Sharing national experiences on criteria and indicators to measure sustainable development in harmony with nature;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund for the participation of the independent experts in the interactive dialogue at the two plenary meetings to be convened during the commemoration of International Mother Earth Day on 26 April 2011, and invites Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider contributing to this fund;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to make use of the existing information portals on sustainable development maintained by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to gather information and contributions on ideas and activities to promote a holistic approach to sustainable development in harmony with nature being undertaken to advance the integration of scientific interdisciplinary work, including success stories on the use of traditional knowledge, and existing national legislation, with a view to making substantive contributions to the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012, and beyond;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁸ A/65/314.